

—Winter/Spring 2017—

# THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES ...

*Where History Begins*

## **Capitol Capstone Centennial**

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# THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES . . .

## Where History Begins

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### On the Cover

Members of the Capitol Commission Board cap the dome  
on December 5, 1916. *Thomas Garfield Cooper Collection,*  
*Missouri State Archives.*





# From the State Archivist

*By John Dougan*



I don't believe I've ever used this space for a "save the date" request, but I would be remiss not to ask you to mark your calendar for the **Friends of the Missouri State Archives Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 10, 2017**, in the atrium and interpretive center of the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center. Following a business meeting at 11:30 a.m. and a blue-plate special luncheon, we are very excited to welcome nationally known author and speaker Susan Croce Kelly to the Archives for a presentation on America's most storied highway, Route 66!

Although born in California, Ms. Kelly grew up in Missouri where she first became fascinated with the fabled U.S. Highway. A former journalist, speechwriter and magazine publisher, she is also the author of two books on the subject, *Route 66: The Highway and Its People* (1990) and *Father of Route 66: The Story of Cy Avery* (2014). In her program, Ms. Kelly will recount how U.S. Highway 66 became everyone's road after it was designated part of the 1926 National Highway System; a road of adventure for intrepid auto pioneers in the late-1920s; filled with desperate people fleeing west to find better lives in the 1930s; a main artery for wartime traffic during the 1940s; and a tourist gateway in the 1950s. She will also discuss how the road has grown into a symbol of America for the rest of the world.

Route 66 is a genuine Missouri story. It did much more than "lift Missouri out of the mud;" it put Missouri on the map as a travel corridor and tourist destination. Some of the most requested photographs in our collections are those shot along the highway. Mom-and-pop motels, restaurants, filling stations and roadside tourist attractions used elaborate signs, architectural features and guilty pleasure foods to grab the public's attention and generate the lore of the past.

This limited space event is open to the public, but there is a cost of \$25 per person. To reserve your place, contact Brian Rogers by Monday, June 5, at (573) 526-1981 or [brian.rogers@sos.mo.gov](mailto:brian.rogers@sos.mo.gov). We hope you can join us for this historical drive down memory lane!

# Online Missouri Session Laws, 1824-2013

By Mary Stansfield, Reference Archivist

Genealogists with Missouri roots generally turn to the usual sources—birth, death, marriage, court and census records—often neglecting the potentially valuable *Missouri Session Laws*. These underutilized legislative records offer context to the lives of their ancestors (e.g., When did the county lines change? What laws allowed land to be sold for payment of back taxes?), and can also help fill in those blanks on your family tree.

To increase public awareness of the collection, as well as improve access, the Missouri State Archives recently digitized all *Session Laws* published by the Missouri General Assembly between 1824 and 2013. Now available on Missouri Digital Heritage, these records contain the text of all laws passed in order of legislative session (<http://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/molaws>).

Family historians will be excited to learn that the *Missouri Session Laws* also contain vital genealogical information. Between 1821 and 1865, the Missouri General Assembly passed over 2,600 “personal acts” granting divorces, adoptions, name changes and financial relief. These were all published in the *Session Laws* until the use of these acts was abolished by a provision in the 1865 *Missouri Constitution*.

In 1868, St. Louis attorney James S. Garland published *An Index to the Statute Laws of Missouri*, better known as “Garland’s Index.” This resource provides the year an act was passed, along with a volume and page number. Also included is an alphabetized list of all personal

acts. The Missouri State Archives has a copy of *Garland’s Index*, although it can also be found online through Google Books.

The easiest way to view the *Missouri Session Laws* is to visit the previously listed URL and click “View the Collection.” This will bring up links to all volumes. Follow one of these links to open a new window with a viewing pane containing images of the desired volume. “Previous” and “Next” arrows then allow the user to navigate between pages.

Keyword searches can also be performed using the “Text Search” box immediately above the viewing pane. Simply type in a search term and hit “Go” twice. The search box will then turn red and the number of hits within the volume will appear. Click the “Content” tab to the right of the viewing pane to see on which pages the term occurs.

It is also possible to perform keyword searches across all volumes at once. Simply click the “Search the Collection” button, enter a term in the search box and hit “Search.” A list of volumes containing the term will then appear. Choose the desired volume and click the title link to view the first occurrence of the search term in that volume.

For those less inclined to use the computer, the Missouri State Archives also accepts research requests. Contact the reference staff today at [archives@sos.mo.gov](mailto:archives@sos.mo.gov) or (573) 751-3280 to request a search of these frequently overlooked records.

## Capitol Capstone Centennial



On January 4, 2017, the Missouri State Capitol Commission celebrated the centennial of the capping of the dome. **1.** A spectacular cake crafted by Edith Hall. **2.** Capitol visitors enjoyed refreshments, live music, history displays and a themed photo booth. **3.** Archivists Christina Miller, Mary Stansfield and Erika Woelk with Sherry Fry’s *Ceres* sculpture in the photo booth. **4.** Panels from the Missouri State Archives’ upcoming exhibit, *Pillars of the State*, and the ceremonial trowel used by Capitol Commission Board member E. W. Stephens to cap the dome. Photographs 1, 2 and 4 by Greg Olson.

# Volunteer Spotlight: Docents

Thousands of students tour the Missouri State Archives each year from schools across the state. These groups learn about the Archives and Missouri history by completing a circuit of four tour stations, staffed by a combination of employees and volunteer docents. The first station, the Lobby, includes stops at the original Missouri state flag and a discussion of paintings depicting Jefferson City in 1804, 1904 and 2004. The Reference Room introduces students to the role of archives, the concept of public records and the use of Missouri State Archives collections. During a trip to the Stacks, students are taught about security, storage and records preservation issues. And finally, a Famous Missourians station uses original records from the Archives to highlight individuals the students have learned about in school: Daniel Boone, Dred Scott, Laura Ingalls Wilder and Harry Truman, to name a few.



Missouri State Archives volunteer docents Warren and Joan Solomon

While student and general public tours are available year round with advanced notice, the seven days of *Archives Alive!* each spring are by far the busiest. On these days, hundreds of students visit the Archives, requiring the four tour station presentations to each be repeated up to 24 times in six hours—a feat not possible without the help of our volunteer docents. Using information and scripts provided by the Archives, these volunteers learn one or two tour stations, and also help keep time and lead groups between stations.

Warren Solomon, a longtime Missouri State Archives volunteer docent, particularly enjoys working with 4th graders because they “ask good questions and show a lot of curiosity.” As a former teacher, he appreciates that visiting the Archives “gives students the opportunity to learn about history and the important role primary sources play.”

To volunteer as a docent or for more information about what it entails, contact Senior Reference Archivist Christina Miller at (573) 751-3280 or [archvol@sos.mo.gov](mailto:archvol@sos.mo.gov).

## Missouri State Archives Receives Grant for Workshops

In February, the Missouri State Archives and the Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB) received a State Board Programming Grant of \$20,865 from the National Historical Records and Publications Commission, the grant-making arm of the National Archives and Records Administration. These funds will help the Archives develop a records preservation best practices workshop and a hands-on records conservation workshop, each to be offered at seven venues around the state in 2017. All offerings will be free and open to the public, as well as the Missouri’s archival/records preservation community, although an RSVP will be required and attendance at each capped at 20. Check [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mhrab/mhrab.asp](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mhrab/mhrab.asp) in the coming weeks for locations, dates and information on how to register, or sign up for the MHRAB’s Docline listserv at <http://soslistserv.sos.mo.gov/scripts/wa.exe?A0=DOCLINE-L> to receive email announcements!



# Picture This

By Erika Woelk, Visual Materials Archivist

## *A Honey of a Collection*

Anyone with an interest in 20th century Missouri military or music history will appreciate the Missouri State Archives' O.T. Honey National Guard Collection. Although featured in a past newsletter edition, this collection deserves a second look because it was recently processed and its photographs fully digitized to enable greater public access.

The 140th Infantry regiment of the Missouri National Guard was activated on June 27, 1898, to serve in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. Disbanded in 1914, it was soon reactivated as part of the 35th Infantry Division during World War I, participating in the battles of Alsace, Lorraine and Argonne Forest. Following the First World War, the regiment returned to the United States, where it was based out of Camp Clark near Nevada, Missouri. At the start of World War II, the 140th moved to Ft. Riley, Kansas, and remained stateside during the entirety of the conflict.

E.O. Brown organized the 140th's first band in 1915, calling it the Third District Mechanics or "Frisco" Band. Six years later, the group became the regiment's official band and played at the Missouri State Fair. Lt. Oscar Thomas "O.T." Honey took over as bandleader in May 1923, retaining the position until he was transferred to another regiment in 1942. Honey, a classically trained musician, began his career as a trumpet player with the Sells-Floto Circus Band, an ensemble that boasted famous members Karl L. King and John Philip Sousa.

Honey documented his time with the 140th, even accumulating photographs and other items that pre-date his service in the National Guard. Today, these materials, which include over 225 photographs and five scrapbooks, are maintained by the Missouri State Archives. The photographs feature the band at practice and in official performances, but also provide a glimpse of camp life during the first half of the 20th century. Subjects include soldiers in the mess line, lounging in front of their tents, lined up for inspection or visiting with family members. Humorous shots are present as well, such as that of the occupants of Tent #7 and their large, prize-winning feet. Also featured are images from Honey's private life, including himself as a young man, his family and local events in Chaffee, Missouri, where he lived both before and after World War II.

The O.T. Honey National Guard Collection is just one of more than 460 manuscript collections available at the Missouri State Archives. For further information, contact the reference staff today at [archives@sos.mo.gov](mailto:archives@sos.mo.gov).



The boys of Tent #7 and their prize-winning feet, 1930.



O.T. Honey directs an impromptu junk band, no date.



The Sells-Floto Circus Band, no date.





A portrait of O.T. Honey as a young man, no date.



The 140th Infantry Band, no date.



Camp Whiteside, Ft. Riley, Kansas, c. 1941.



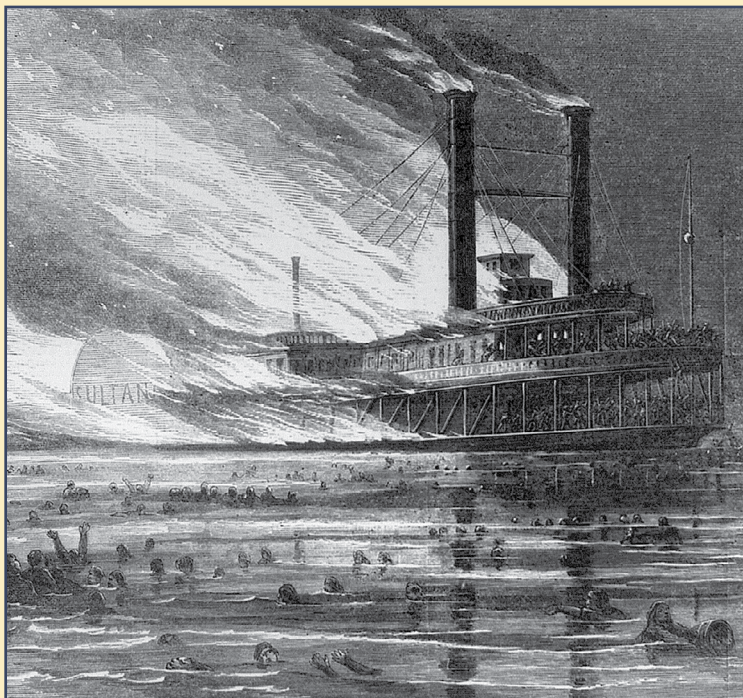
The 140th Infantry Band, August 1929.



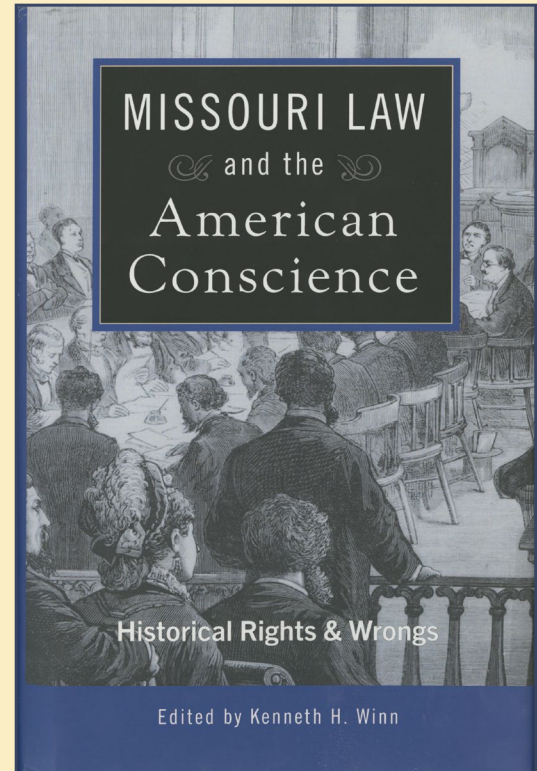
# Spring 2017 Program Calendar

## ***The Boatburners and the Secret War for Missouri*** Thursday, April 20, 2017, 7 p.m.

On April 25, 1865, Col. James H. Baker, Provost Marshal of the Department of Missouri, issued a report on the Confederate Boatburners, a covert organization of saboteurs working under Joseph W. Tucker. Col. Baker sent out urgent letters and reports, hunting for a man named Robert Loudon, an escaped Boatburner under sentence of death in St. Louis. Baker's report claimed 61 steamboats "owned in St. Louis" had been destroyed under suspicious circumstances since the beginning of the Civil War. Just two days later, the *Sultana* sank killing approximately 1,700 soldiers and civilians. The arguments of whether sabotage or negligence resulted in this, the worst maritime disaster in U.S. history, are debatable. What is certain is that the Confederacy did sanction irregular warfare by Boatburners on the Mississippi River that resulted in the destruction of numerous steamships and significant loss of life and property. Learn more about the mysterious sinking of the *Sultana* and the exploits of the Confederate Boatburners from Marc Kollbaum, former director of the Jefferson Barracks Historic Site.



"Explosion of the steamer *Sultana*, April 28, 1865," *Harper's Weekly*, Library of Congress.



## ***Missouri Law and the American Conscience: From Indian Murder Trials to the Right to Die and Other Tales From Missouri's Legal Past*** Thursday, May 18, 2017, 7 p.m.

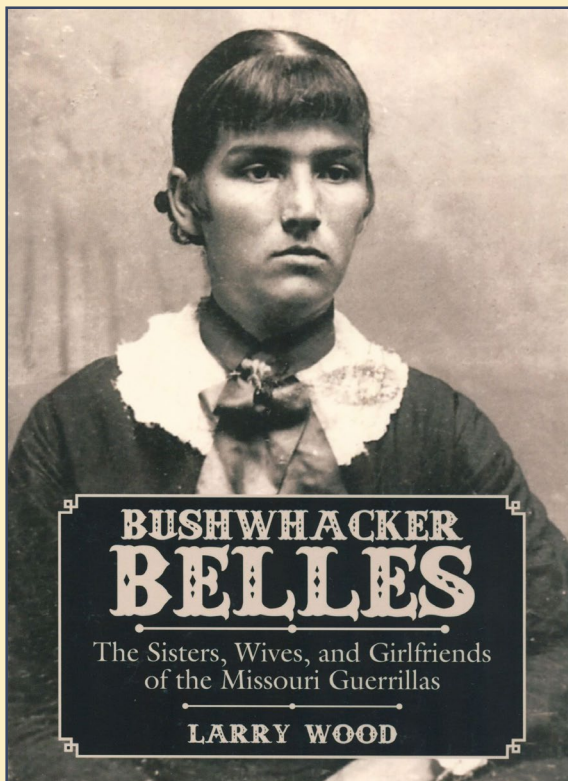
In *Missouri Law and the American Conscience*, a new history anthology edited by historian and former Missouri State Archivist Ken Winn, 10 essays showcase Missouri as both maker and microcosm of American history. While some focus on well-known legal cases, such as Dred Scott's freedom suit, Curt Flood's suit against professional baseball and the Nancy Cruzan "right to die" case, accounts of lesser known suits and events are also included. Learn about an attempt by Territorial Governor Meriwether Lewis to place on trial and execute non-English speaking Indians for the murder of Anglo-American settlers, Missouri's first breach of promise suit involving George Sibley's rescinded marriage proposal to a 15-year-old French girl and Laurance M. Hyde's advocacy of the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan. Join us as Winn discusses these and other stories illuminating Missouri's fascinating and sometimes forgotten legal past.



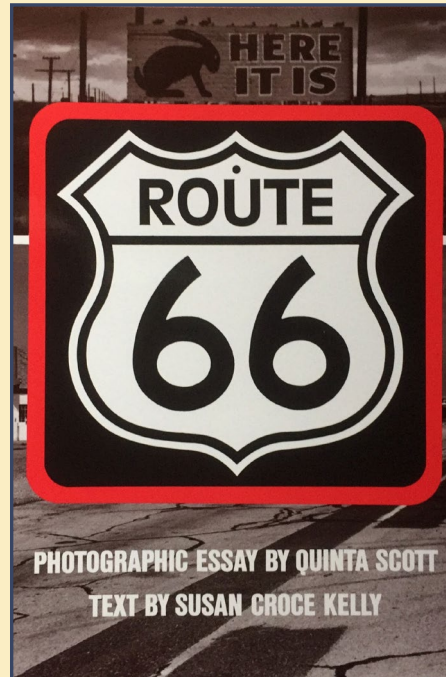
# Spring 2017 Program Calendar

## ***Bushwhacker Belles: The Sisters, Wives, and Girlfriends of the Missouri Guerrillas*** **Thursday, June 15, 2017, 7 p.m.**

In his latest book, *Bushwhacker Belles: The Sisters, Wives, and Girlfriends of the Missouri Guerrillas*, historian Larry Wood provides a fascinating glimpse into the irregular warfare that embroiled the state during the Civil War. Sometimes connected by blood, but always united in purpose, these wives, sisters, daughters, lovers, friends and mothers risked their lives and freedom to give aid and comfort to their menfolk. By using subterfuge—and occasionally sheer luck—to feed, clothe, and shelter the guerrillas, these women of every age and station acted as essential go-betweens, scouts, spies, guides and mail handlers, often joining bushwhacker campaigns and assisting in any way possible. Many of the women were arrested or banished from their home state; many were forced to swear an oath of allegiance to the Union to gain their freedom; a few were able to carry out their clandestine missions undetected for years. The poignant tales are punctuated by stark images of these women, giving silent testimony to their resiliency and strength during tumultuous times. Join us as Wood traces the wartime activities of these daring women.



## **Friends Annual Meeting** **Saturday, June 10, 2017, 11:30 a.m.**



The 2017 Friends of the Missouri State Archives Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, June 10 at the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center (600 W. Main St., Jefferson City, MO 65101). The business portion will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by a noon luncheon and program entitled, *Route 66: The Highway and Its People*, by nationally recognized author Susan Croce Kelly.

This event is open to the public, but there is a cost of \$25 per person. Contact Brian Rogers by Monday, June 5, at (573) 526-1981 or [brian.rogers@sos.mo.gov](mailto:brian.rogers@sos.mo.gov) to reserve your place. Payment should be mailed to the Friends of the Missouri State Archives, P.O. Box 242, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

## **Upcoming 2017 Thursday Evening Speaker Series Programs:**

***Buck O'Neil: Baseball's Ambassador***  
**Thursday, July 13, 2017**

***Fremont's Hundred Days in Missouri***  
**Thursday, August 17, 2017**

***Andrew Taylor Still: Father of Osteopathic Medicine***  
**Thursday, September 14, 2017**

***Missouri's Mad Doctor McDowell: Confederates, Cadavers and Macabre Medicine***  
**Thursday, October 12, 2017**

***The Resurgence of Osage Culture and Language***  
**Thursday, November 9, 2017**

***In Recognition of American Indian Heritage Month***

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